

# VANISHING POINT



PRESS RELEASE

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11 January 2017

## WORLD PREMIERE OF SCOTTISH OPERA AND VANISHING POINT COLLABORATION

A double-bill of *Bluebeard's Castle* by Béla Bartók and the world premiere of *The 8th Door*, a devised work co-created by leading theatre director, **Matthew Lenton** - Artistic Director of Vanishing Point - and Scottish Opera Composer in Residence **Liam Paterson**, opens on 28 March at Theatre Royal Glasgow. Both pieces will be directed by **Matthew Lenton** and conducted by **Sian Edwards**.

This groundbreaking co-production between Scottish Opera and internationally-acclaimed theatre company, Vanishing Point, marks **Matthew Lenton's** opera directorial debut.

There are two further performances in Glasgow (30 March and 1 April) and two at the Festival Theatre Edinburgh on 5 and 8 April.

Conceived as a companion piece to *Bluebeard's Castle*, *The 8th Door* explores the disintegration of a relationship. The 40-minute work features texts by Hungarian poets who knew or had a connection to Bartók, including Endre Ady, Attila József and English translations by Edwin Morgan.

The cast on stage includes Vanishing Point creative associates **Elicia Daly** and **Pauline Goldsmith**, who have appeared in many of the company's previous productions, **Robert Jack** and **Gresa Pallaska**, who featured in Lenton's recent production of *The Merchant of Venice* with the National Theatre of Kosovo, making her UK debut.

They will be supported by six singers performing, with amplification, in the pit alongside The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. They are sopranos **Emily Vine** and the Scottish Opera John Mather Charitable Trust Emerging Artist **Hazel McBain** (*The Elixir of Love* 2016), mezzo soprano and former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist **Katie Grosset** (*The Pirates of Penzance* 2013), counter tenor **Daniel Keating-Roberts**, tenor **William Morgan** and baritone **Martin Häßler**.

*The 8th Door* is followed with Bartók's masterpiece, *Bluebeard's Castle*, set in a domestic environment where the 'doors' in the castle are more symbolic than literal.

**Karen Cargill** and **Robert Hayward** sing the roles of Judith and Bluebeard, with Bluebeard's wives played by performers **Elicia Daly**, **Pauline Goldsmith** and **Gresa Pallaska**. **Robert Jack** will deliver the prologue. The powerful intimacy of the two singers contrasts with huge orchestral forces to deliver a wealth of soundscapes, emotions and textures in Bartók's unsettling and spine-tingling score.

Set, lighting and projection design for both works is by **Kai Fischer**, with costumes by **Jessica Brettle**.

Director **Matthew Lenton** said: '*Bluebeard's Castle* has long been a favourite of mine. It's a darkly beautiful, mysterious opera which can be understood in different ways, allowing the audience to dream their own dreams – or nightmares! – on to what they see. I hope my respectful production will capture its extraordinary atmosphere.'

He continued: '*The 8<sup>th</sup> Door* is a newly created piece of music theatre which reflects Bartók's opera but stands independently. It develops Vanishing Point's innovative and pioneering approach, in collaboration with Scottish Opera, leading artists and performers.'

It has been a scintillating pleasure to work with the brilliant young composer Liam Paterson, singers Karen Cargill and Robert Hayward, conductor Sian Edwards and Vanishing Point's own team of associate artists, on this ground-breaking co-production.'

Scottish Opera Composer in Residence, **Liam Paterson**, said: 'Collaborating with Matthew Lenton on *The 8th Door* is a unique opportunity to blur the boundaries between innovative theatre and opera. It has been a wonderful challenge to find a musical landscape that is at once my own and deeply connected to *Bluebeard's Castle*, an opera I have profoundly admired for many years.'

Soprano **Karen Cargill** said: 'The marriage of *Bluebeard's Castle* with Vanishing Point is an exciting one. I have always been attracted to the piece ever since I first saw it in 2004 with Scottish Opera. Judith is a role I have longed to sing, a vivid character with beautiful music that runs alongside a complex psychology. The challenge of mastering the intricate music, the Hungarian language and her fascinating psyche is intriguing.'

In the short time that we have worked together, I am loving rehearsing with Matthew and his colleagues from Vanishing Point. Exploring fresh ways to communicate and finding a different physical language are very exciting, their way of working is an entirely new process for Robert Hayward and I, a challenge that we have really enjoyed.'

It will be wonderful to return to Scottish Opera after being away for so long, back to where it all began for me.'

**Alex Reedijk**, Scottish Opera's General Director added: 'I am greatly looking forward to Matthew Lenton's operatic directorial debut with Scottish Opera, and seeing the world premiere of *The 8<sup>th</sup> Door*, which Lenton has co-created with our talented Composer in Residence, Liam Paterson. Working in collaboration with Vanishing Point, whose innovative work I have admired for some time, has been a fascinating and artistically rewarding experience. Liam is a gifted young composer, and this double bill is a unique opportunity for him to showcase his work.'

Audiences also have the chance to attend *Bluebeard's Castle* and *The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Unwrapped*, free one-hour tasters delving further in to the show and how it was created, as well as Pre-show Talks. Those who are visually impaired can enjoy the full opera experience at audio-described performances, which have live commentary that describes the action on stage without compromising the music.

-ENDS-

[www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)

Twitter and Instagram: @ScottishOpera

[www.vanishing-point.org](http://www.vanishing-point.org)

Twitter: @VPointTheatreCo

## **Bluebeard's Castle**

### Cast List

Prologue	<b>Robert Jack</b>
Bluebeard	<b>Robert Hayward</b>
Judith	<b>Karen Cargill</b>
Wives	<b>Elicia Daly</b>
	<b>Pauline Goldsmith</b>
	<b>Gresa Pallaska</b>

### Creative Team

Conductor	<b>Sian Edwards</b>
Director	<b>Matthew Lenton</b>
Set, Lighting & Projection Design	<b>Kai Fischer</b>
Costume Design	<b>Jessica Brettle</b>

## **The 8<sup>th</sup> Door**

### Cast List

Performer	<b>Elicia Daly</b>
Performer	<b>Pauline Goldsmith</b>
Performer	<b>Robert Jack</b>
Performer	<b>Gresa Pallaska</b>
Soprano 1	<b>Emily Vine</b>
Soprano 2	<b>Hazel McBain*</b>
Mezzo soprano	<b>Katie Grosset</b>
Countertenor	<b>Daniel Keating-Roberts</b>
Tenor	<b>William Morgan</b>
Baritone	<b>Martin Häßler</b>

**\* Scottish Opera John Mather Charitable Trust Emerging Artist**

### Creative Team

Conductor	<b>Sian Edwards</b>
Conceived and Directed by	<b>Matthew Lenton</b>
Composer	<b>Liam Paterson</b>
Co-created by	<b>Matthew Lenton &amp; Liam Paterson</b>
Set, Lighting & Projection Design	<b>Kai Fischer</b>
Costume Design	<b>Jessica Brettle</b>

### Performance Diary

**Theatre Royal Glasgow, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA**

Tue 28 Mar 7.15pm

Thu 30 Mar 7.15pm

Sat 1 Apr 7.15pm

### Free events

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Unwrapped*

Wed 29 Mar, 6pm

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Pre-show Talk*

Sat 1 Apr, 6pm

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Touch Tour*

Sat 1 Apr, 6pm

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Audio-described performance*

Sat 1 Apr, 7.15pm

### **Festival Theatre, 13–29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT**

Wed 5 Apr 7.15pm

Sat 8 Apr 7.15pm

### Free events

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Unwrapped*

Thu 6 Apr, 6pm

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Pre-show Talk*

Sat 8 Apr, 6pm

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Touch Tour*

Sat 8 Apr, 6pm

*Bluebeard's Castle and The 8<sup>th</sup> Door Audio-described performance*

Sat 8 Apr, 7.15pm

### Notes to Editors

### **Scottish Opera**

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival and complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK. Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year, as well as many other activities including adult learning and free *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



## **Vanishing Point**

Vanishing Point is Scotland's foremost artist-led independent theatre company, internationally recognised and acclaimed for its distinctive, ground-breaking and visionary work. Its mission is to create world class, international theatre, led by director Matthew Lenton.

Established in 1999, the Company has developed an international reputation for creating bold and ambitious performances that are visceral, visual and entertaining. Vanishing Point explores

contemporary society through a unique lens of abstraction, imagery and text, creating worlds that resemble our own, but are magical and sometimes surreal.

Vanishing Point's perspective is international and multicultural. The company collaborates with artists and producers from other countries and cultures. It creates work that overcomes language barriers and communicates across cultures.

Vanishing Point's work has been created and performed in over 20 countries with leading international festivals and venues including Edinburgh International Festival, Buenos Aires International Festival, Santiago A Mil, BOZAR Arts (Brussels), Theatre de la Ville (Paris), Stanislavsky Season Festival (Moscow), National Theatre of Portugal (Porto) & Brighton Festival.

### **Matthew Lenton, Director**

Matthew founded Vanishing Point in 1999 and has directed all of the Company's productions. Other recent work includes *The Merchant of Venice* (National Theatre of Kosovo), *Striptease/Out at Sea* (Citizens Theatre Glasgow), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *Mister Holgado* (Unicorn Theatre, London) and *Home* (National Theatre of Scotland).

In 2010, Matthew was chosen to be the first British director of the École des Maîtres, a European theatre laboratory led by leading European artists and directors. In 2010, Matthew directed his first film, *Boy*, for Touchpaper Television and Channel 4.

### **Liam Paterson, Composer**

Liam is Scottish Opera's Composer in Residence. He is originally from Aberdeenshire, and was a postgraduate student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as an accompanist and répétiteur. Last year, Liam presented two new works inspired by Edwin Morgan, Glasgow's first Poet Laureate, at the Aye Write! book festival. The dramatic song cycle *Spirit of the Place* received its world premiere and a new piano work was also featured, inspired by Morgan's epic poem 'The New Divan'.



As well as the world premiere of *The 8<sup>th</sup> Door*, Scottish Opera's upcoming *Opera Highlights* tour will feature the world premiere of Lliam's innovative parody of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* called *Bluebeard's Cake*. Lliam is also working on a composition for Scottish Opera's education department, details of which will be announced soon.

**For additional press details on Scottish Opera and interviews with Lliam Paterson and singers, please contact:**

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